

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 27-66, 70-78 and 80-84 are pending with claims 1-12 and 81 being independent. Claims 1-10, 13-18, 27-66, 70-78 and 80 have been withdrawn from consideration, leaving independent claims 11, 12 and 81, and their dependent claims 82-84, under consideration. Claims 11, 12 and 81 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 11, 12 and 81 have been rejected as being anticipated by Koyama (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001-0048408).

With respect to claims 11 and 12, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Koyama does not describe or suggest an arrangement in which an output current value is controlled depending on a value of a received signal current. Rather, as has been previously noted, Koyama describes an SRAM circuit that sets an output potential based on an input potential received at a particular time.

While the Examiner correctly notes that Ohm's law states that the electrical current passing through a conductor between two points is proportional to the potential difference across the two points, and inversely proportional to the resistance between them, the Examiner incorrectly states that resistance is "clearly" held constant across Koyama's SRAM circuit in Figure 5B, and that Koyama's input/output current will inherently be proportional to the input/output voltage. This reasoning by the Examiner is flawed in that the signal line driver circuit that includes the SRAM latch of Koyama's Figure 5B is not a simple resistor circuit. Rather, it is a complex circuit including active devices having impedances that will change under different conditions such that the relationship between the current and the voltage will vary. Accordingly, nothing in Koyama in any way indicates that the SRAM circuit of Figure 5B controls an output current value depending on a value of a received signal current, and the rejection should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Stated another way, the output current of Koyama's SRAM circuit will depend primarily on the input impedance of devices to which the output of Koyama's SRAM circuit is connected, and will not be controlled based on a value of a received signal current. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Similarly to claims 11 and 12, independent claim 81 recites a plurality of current source circuits, each of which is configured to be supplied with a first current and to supply a second current, with a value of the second current depending on a value of the first current.

Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 81 for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 82-84 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koyama in view of Akimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,850,216). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Akimoto does not remedy the failure of Koyama to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$810 for the request for continued examination (RCE) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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John F. Hayden
Reg. No. 37,640

Customer No. 26171
Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W. - 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331
/adt
40454159.doc